



# the **RARA RAG**

Published by

**ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

VOL. 56

NOVEMBER 2003

NO.3

## AUCTION

### Annual Auction

Brad Armstrong W1YX

First, let me thank all of you who showed up to enjoy the October presentation. It was a great success and the attendance and participation of the members made the program all that much better!



This month is the Annual RaRa Auction, hosted by Ed Gable, K2MP. This knowledgeable and witty auctioneer can sell even your most unlikely items. Bring all amateur radio related things that you might wish to sell and Ed will work his magic!

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**RaRa**

**MEETING**

November 7, 2003

**8:00 PM**

HENRIETTA FIRE HALL  
3129 E. HENRIETTA RD.

**AUCTION**

Presented by

Ed Gable K2MP

### Do you know about BPL?

**You better read up on it – your frequencies are in danger...**

**(BROADBAND OVER POWERLINES):**

Also goes by a few other names and acronyms: Power Line Communications (PLC, Power Line Telecommunications (PLT), and Power Line Broadband (PLB) are terms also used. There are a number of types of PLC systems, using different approaches and architecture. All are "carrier-current" systems, a term used to describe systems that intentionally conduct signals over electrical wiring or power lines. This technology would offer one more route to broadband Internet access -- at the expense of massive interference with existing Amateur Radio Service transmissions. The Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS), shortwave, Citizens' Band and radio astronomy would also be disrupted. Although the prospect of massive interference led to rejection of BPL by governments of The Netherlands and Japan, the FCC has allowed some forms of this in the past, and is formatting approval to allow more powerful use of this technology **RIGHT NOW**. <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>

Also – is this news to you?

**"PRESIDENTIAL SPECTRUM POLICY INITIATIVE":** A little-known directive -- set forth in a Presidential Memorandum of June 5, 2003. The "Initiative" directs several Federal agencies and Departments to develop, by June of 2004, a comprehensive plan for allocating more of the radio spectrum to

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# the **RARA RAG**

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**RARA RAG 2**

## RaRa Ham Shack Photos

### Online

John Rooker KC2KQT

We now have shack photos of RaRa members on the RaRa website. If you would like to have photos of your shack posted on the website, please contact John Rooker KC2KQT via email at [john@jwrooker.com](mailto:john@jwrooker.com). I can scan photos, negatives or handle your digital photos. All submitted photos, slides or negatives will be returned to you. If you do not have Internet access, please feel free to call me at 473-9946 and we'll make necessary arrangements.

## Dates for RARRA Meetings 2003-2004

November 21, 2003 Tune-up clinic night

December 19, 2003 to be announced...Family night dinner

January 16, 2004

February 20, 2004

March 19, 2004 Auction Night/ talkin for Hamfest redness

April 16, 2004 Nominations for office night  
May 21, 2004

June 18, 2004 this may be held on June 4,  
2004 Election Night

July/August Time off/ possible picnic

The annual FM tune up clinic (as mentioned in Ed Gable's article 20 Years Ago) is still alive & well after all these years. Bring your FM transceivers, along with your manual to the meeting November 21, 2003 8:00 PM in the basement Meeting room of the Pittsford Town Hall (please no "basket" cases). All are welcome.

We urge you all to visit our updated Web Site <http://www.rrra.5u.com/main.html>

## RaRa's New Domain Name

Please bookmark our new internet address:

[www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org)

Are you a Rochester ham? Bug our website monthly to checkout on the most current events. The old URL still works, but, no guarantee in the future. Note rochesterham is one word. Capitalization may work with most web browsers.



## RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago,

November 1983 Ed Gable K2MP

In what continues to be a popular RaRa tradition, the November meeting then was the Ham equipment auction. The venue was the now gone, but not forgotten, big fire truck bay at the Police and Fire Academy. Just in time was a nicely written article by Ron Jacobowski, K2RJ, titled "How to be Successful at Auction." Speaking of Ron, K2RJ, he was also heading up the *Rochester Radio Repeater Association's* heavily attended FM clinic. Those were the days when some were still using crystal controlled rigs that needed frequency and deviation tweaking annually. The FM clinic, with test equipment borrowed from various local businesses, is where you could get your rig checked by experts at no cost. Many readers were surprised and saddened by the announcement that long time Rag editor Dwight Hill, K2KWK, announced his stepping down. Dwight remained as a contributing editor and (here's that name again) Ron, K2RJ, took over the editor position. It was this month that the FCC approved a policy of making Amateur Radio licenses good for ten years. The *Rochester VHF Group* had an interesting program on speech digitizers given by an expert in the field, Fred Cupp, W2DUC, at the *Radionics* facility in Webster. And for those of you who remember the saga of the VHF Group transverter project, it was 20 years ago that the last unit, of almost 200 built, got delivered. Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, announced that 55 people signed up for the code and theory classes. Ed also explained some of the details on the new Volunteer Examiner program just announced by the FCC. Then, the program called for 13 Volunteer Coordinators, one in each of the U.S. call districts and one each in Alaska, the Pacific and the Caribbean Islands. The program called for teams of three Advanced and/or Extra class examiners and was effective in December, 1983. It was reported that Walter B. Duffy, W2WSQ, was a silent key. From the Want Ads you could buy a USB/LSB Cobra 40 channel CB, with yagi antenna and rotor, from Dave, KA2RDB. *Radio World*, in Oriskany, New York, remained a long time advertiser.

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL REPEATERS**

## RaRa

### Amateur Radio License Testing

Contact George Platteter AA2FO

For any special needs or questions

(585)334-4488

All Elements Needed To Complete

A License Class

**SATURDAY**

November 19, 2003

Registration – 8:30 AM

Testing – 9:00 AM

**NEW LOCATION**

**ROOM 2150 IN BUILDING 76**

**Rochester Institute of Technology**

1 Lomb Memorial Drive

Rochester, NY 14623

(Turn south at the signal light between  
The Radisson Inn and the Genesee River  
At the traffic circle bear to the right look  
For parking lot F at the far end of lot F is  
Building 76 go in the main entrance up the  
Stairs to the second floor turn to the left  
To room 2150 the hall runs in a circle so  
If you miss it you will end up back where  
You started)

CONTINUED FROM BPL PAGE ONE  
commercial wireless interests, presumably at  
the expense of Amateur Radio Service opera-  
tors and others. The plan is being developed  
outside of the FCC and its public comment  
process. Next summer, the "Spectrum Policy  
Initiative" will, apparently, be submitted di-  
rectly to Congress, as proposed legislation,  
and/or implemented by a Presidential Execu-  
tive Order. In any case, the "Spectrum Policy  
Initiative" is being developed RIGHT NOW.  
[http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/  
releases/2003/06/20030605-4.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/06/20030605-4.html)

### VE TESTING (W5YI-VEC)

#### The First Thursday of the month

(except if it falls on a Holiday)

Registration 17:30 Contact Person Charles N2IM

n2im@arrl.net/585-820-9218

KODAK PK. BUILDING # 28

(corner of Palm St. & Ridge Rd. west)



The rules of the auction are simple. The Club keeps 10% of all sales as a commission, or you may choose to simply donate the full proceeds of your items to benefit the treasury. The commission or donation amount is fully tax-deductible. It is expected that you pay for items you win right after the gavel falls, and the seller should pay the commission from the proceeds of the sale immediately after that. This is a members only auction. Paid up members are welcome to put as many items up for sale as they can get through the door, and each paid member may bring one guest. You will be able to update your membership as you come through the door on the night of the event. Sales in the parking lot and before the auction are prohibited. Please note that the doors will open one hour early, at 7 pm, for sellers to bring in and display their treasures for sale. Please feel free to come and preview the auction items during this hour as well. There will be no regular business meeting and the auction will begin at 8 o'clock sharp. Be on time, so you don't miss a single chance to bid for a great bargain on your first handheld or that needed upgrade to your shack.



Ed Gable is our Club historian and longtime curator of the Antique Wireless Association Museum. If he doesn't know about a piece of RF equipment, it probably doesn't exist. Come and let him inform and entertain you, while he plays matchmaker between local hams and the bargains they didn't think they could find.

My hope for this year is to find as many ways for folks to get involved in local amateur activities as I can and learn a little along the way. If you have a program idea, especially one that showcases ways for local hams to get involved (doing, building, learning, any way at all), please contact me as soon as possible so I can get you on the schedule. See you at the meeting!

**NEXT RAG DEADLINE 11/17/2003**

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## Kudos to the Hurricane Watch Volunteers

Judy Stonehill N2KXS

ARES Emergency Coordinator, Monroe County

Many thanks are due to the numerous hams that volunteered to cover the American Red Cross amateur radio station at the Rochester Headquarters during the Hurricane Isabel ARES activation. We had been asked to provide communications during the Watch for at least three days, beginning with Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Because of the track that the hurricane took, only five 4-hours shifts were required, with three shifts requiring one operator and two shifts requiring one operator for each of the two stations. The operators who covered those shifts were KC2GXV, W2SKY, WY7Q, N2KXS, and KG2M. We had more operators – N2TUN, N2BEL, N2IXD, N2RD, K2ULB, AA2FO, K2DPC, and N2JAC – ready to operate through Saturday and twelve additional hams waiting for Sunday and Monday assignments. However, Hurricane Isabel veered to the west of the Monroe County area and we were instructed to stand down at 1600 Friday.

Special mention needs to be made, also, of the commitment that several operators showed in providing the Red Cross with last minute communication capability. When the Red Cross requested on Monday that we be able to pass traffic to Albany during the Watch, Greg, KC2GXV, evaluated the situation and had an HF station installed and an NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) antenna nearly installed by the following morning. With assistance from Brad, W1YX, Greg completed the installation of the antenna and tested the feedlines. Brad also worked on the Headquarters roof to ensure that connectors were free of corrosion and cables were properly secured. In another instance, late Thursday night Nassau County requested that we enable packet communication with them. Brad, KB2CHY, Jim, W2COP, and Peter, W2SKY, felt that a packet link was not feasible within a short time period so they suggested implementing EchoLink instead. The three hams, via the 88 repeater, worked until the early hours of Friday to implement EchoLink, tying the K2RRA repeater into the University of Rochester EchoLink node. In several media interviews throughout the

CONTINUED TOP NEXT PAGE



watch, the Red Cross staff mentioned the excellent support they were receiving from the amateur radio community. I echo their sentiments as well — "Job well done". The lessons we learned during this activation will prepare us for when we are needed again. Thank you

## IS THIS YOUR LAST ISSUE OF THE RAG?

Dick Goslee K2VCZ

The membership period for RaRa starts the first of September each year and continues through the end of August the following year. The final membership expiration each year is October 31, which includes a 2 month grace period for payment of your dues. Check the address label on your current issue of the RAG for your expiration date. If it shows OCT. 2003, your dues have not yet been received for the year 2003-2004, and this will be your last issue of the RAG. You must be a current member of RaRa to participate in the auction at the November meeting so now is a good time to send your check.

You may pay your dues at the November Auction or any RaRa meeting or send them along with your completed membership application to RaRa, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333.

## ARRL seeks clubs' support in BPL campaign

August 27, 2003 -- ARRL has asked some 2100 ARRL-affiliated clubs to consider donating to the Broadband over Power Line (BPL) Special Spectrum Defense Campaign. "Your ARRL is at the forefront of the campaign to defeat BPL and will continue to work tirelessly to protect your Amateur Radio bands," says ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. Hobart notes that individuals and clubs have responded generously to fund ARRL's efforts to fight BPL and many also have filed comments in response to the FCC's *Notice of Inquiry* in ET Docket 03-104. "But we still need to raise an additional \$55,000 to fund the field measurements and document filings necessary to defeat this threat," Hobart pointed out in urging clubs to give serious thought to helping out. ARRL has

*CONTINUED BOTTOM NEXT COLUMN*

## A THANK YOU

Bob Rachow KC2JKV

I want to thank the man who helped make my boyhood dream a reality. The set up of a HF station and tower. In the fall of 2002, I was told to seek out this man. I gave him a call, he said "come on over". When I saw his shack and tower, I needed a bucket for the drool.

The process began. We looked thru catalogs and he gave me choices to pick from. He advised on what I would need in the way of equipment to get up and running.

Parts and supplies started showing up in the winter. In the spring the tower arrived. Then the fun began. Plans were made to put the antenna together and arrangements were made to install the tower. Foundation was laid, wire and coax had to be run 200 feet from the house. He was there all the time giving advice. When it came time to raise the tower and install the antenna, he was the foreman on the job. It took many of my fellow hams to raise the antenna but the job went smoothly.

First time on the air, September 2003, we reached England. What a thrill! This has been an experience that will last my lifetime. This man has gone from advisor/mentor to the best thing of all-my friend. This man is Ed Gable-K2MP.

**RaRa HOTLINE**  
**(585) 442-0587 24X7**

## SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

received club contributions ranging from \$50 to \$2000. She promised to post a list of contributing clubs on the ARRL Web site this fall "as our way of saying thank you." More information on BPL is available on the ARRL Web site, including a video--available for downloading and showing at club meetings--that graphically demonstrates the interference radio amateurs would experience from BPL. There's a *PowerPoint* presentation too. To help, visit ARRL's secure BPL campaign donation site or mail your contribution to BPL Special Spectrum Defense Campaign, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111.



## Monroe County ARES

(Amateur Radio Emergency Service)

**Chuck Blocher KC2IQV**

The last meeting of the Monroe County Amateur Emergency Radio Service (MC ARES), October 16th, has several exciting presentations on MC ARES business, FlexNet, APRS, and the current planning being accomplished by the organization. Judy Stonehill, N2KXS, discussed how the amateur radio community came together to be prepared for hurricane Isabel and the current status regarding the organization. The Rochester Red Cross was very pleased about how our amateur radio community answered the call and provided outstanding back-up communications. When the Red Cross asked for HF and packet communications several amateur's came through with a HF radio and antenna as well as a unique solution to the packet radio communications using Echolink.

Peter Fornia, W2SKY, and Jon Dickason, N2JAC, talked about the use of FlexNet and the benefit this packet system would have for our emergency radio response. The State Emergency Management Office would like to have each county part of this packet system. This would also benefit the Rochester Red Cross, so they would have packet communications with each of the Red Cross chapters. The next presentation by Jim DiTucci, N2IXD, was about the Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) and how it is currently being used. The presentation consisted of the equipment, set-up, software, and a live demonstration of how any amateur can use it in their daily amateur radio dealings as well as in our emergency radio communications. The last presentation, Chuck Blocher KC2IQV, consisted of the current planning outline for the standard operating procedures for the MC ARES organization. This presentation provided the MC ARES members with the initial direction and what on-going planning requirements are needed to be accomplished.

The next meeting, November 20th, will be a traffic handling training session given by Greg Michaels at 7:00 PM located on the RIT campus, in the Xerox Auditorium which is on the first floor of Building 09 (Gleason Engineering). This is open to all who want to learn more about MC ARES and traffic handling.

## DO YOU HAVE 2 ADDRESSES?

Do you have a different address in the winter (where the snow doesn't fall)? If you do we would like to have your winter address so that we can continue to get the RAG to you on time. If you let me know what the address is and when you will be there it will help me very much. It will also show as a second address in "The RaRa Directory" so that others will also know where to find you in the winter.

You can send the address to me in the mail at 24 Elaine Dr., Rochester, NY 14623-5306 or you can send me an e-mail at [rgoslee@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rgoslee@rochester.rr.com). Thanks.

## ARE YOU THE OLDEST MEMBER?

**Dick Goslee K2VCZ**

A few years ago while I was processing the incoming membership applications I came across a note on one of them saying that this member (W2DD) thought he was the oldest. Well sorry Bill, you were only a youngster then and you are only a youngster. The prize for being the oldest member goes to none other than David Melman, KA2UBJ who was born 2-26-1908. Next comes the youngster Bill DeWitt, W2DD who was born 11-6-1908. Then comes Archibald Mac Innes, KA2OGG who was born 1-28-1910, followed by Roland Janes, K2JWJ who was born 3-14-1911 and then comes George Cook, WW2D who was born 9-28-1916.

Congratulations to our top 5 members in the Senior Category. Glad to have you as members along with an additional 163 Senior Members.

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# For Sale

SGC-2020 Transceiver and Z-11 Auto Tuner, both are small, can be used for back-pack work, together \$475 or B.O. Can see on their Web sites. [ejswartz@frontiernet.net](mailto:ejswartz@frontiernet.net) or call KA2GBX 546-6712 would like to sell as a package.

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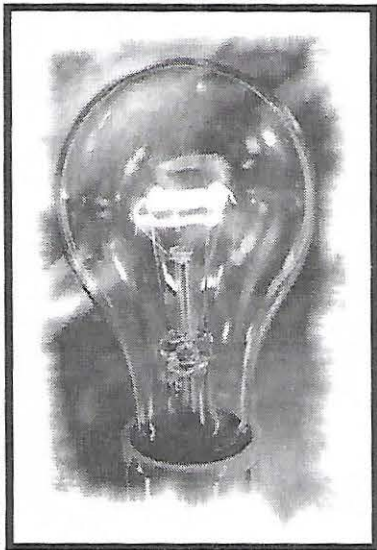
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## GLEN WOOD SALES

**594 HAGUE STREET**  
**ROCHESTER, NY 14606**

**HOURS:**  
**M-F 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**  
**SAT 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

**PH: (585) 328-1600**  
**FAX: (585) 328-3630**

## ELECTRONIC COMPONENT PARTS

**(NEW AND NEW SURPLUS)**

**I LARGE SELECTION**  
**I HIGH QUALITY**  
**I LOW PRICES**  
**I IN-DEPTH INVENTORY**

### **WE STOCK THE FOLLOWING:**

AC CORDS  
 CAPACITORS  
 COAX CABLE  
 CONNECTORS  
 DIODES  
 ENCLOSURES  
 FANS  
 FUSES  
 FUSEHOLDERS

ICS  
 LAMPS  
 LED'S  
 MOTORS  
 POTENTIOMETERS  
 RELAYS  
 RESISTORS  
 SCR'S  
 SHRINK TUBE

SOLDER  
 SWITCHES  
 TRANSISTORS  
 TRIACS  
 TRIM POTS  
**VARIABLE CAPS**  
 WIRE/CABLE  
 ZENER DIODES  
 LOTS MOREL

**TRY GLENWOOD FOR ALL YOUR COMPONENT REQUIREMENTS**

### **FULL LINE DISTRIBUTORS FOR**

NTE	Replacement Semi's	TYTON	Cable Ties
PRB	VCR Belts & Accy	PROTEK	Test Gear
GC/THORSEN	Tools & Chemicals	MUELLER	Test Leads
SL WABER	Outlet Strips +	GOLDSTAR	Test Gear
WAH L	Soldering/Drilling	PALADI N	Tools
	Tools & Accy		

**Search our Inventory at [www.glenwoodsals.com](http://www.glenwoodsals.com)**